

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

The Office Action mailed January 5, 2010 (hereinafter Action) has been received and its contents carefully considered. The Applicant thanks the examiner for the careful consideration of this application and especially the comments with regard to allowable claims 8-10 and suggestions for amendment of claims 24-29. By this Amendment claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 21, 25-26, 28-29, 33, 38-40, 43-48, and 50 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to correct minor grammatical issues and has not been amended to change the scope of the claim. Claims 10, 33, 39, 47 have been amended to correct minor grammatical or typographical errors. Claims 16, 38, 40, 43-46, 48, and 50 have been amended to correct antecedent basis. Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 24. Claims 25-26 and 28-29 have been amended to depend from now allowable claim 21. Further, by this amendment, claims 24, 58, 60-66, 69 and 71-86 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice.

The Applicant believes that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-23 and 25-57 are now pending in this Application and are believed to be allowable.

Based on the following remarks and foregoing amendments, The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On page 2 of the Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-10 were allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to depend from claim 8. As a result, claims 2-6, 11, 13-20 and 30-57 now also depend from allowable claim 8. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 11, 13-20 and 30-57 are now allowable.

On pages 2-3 of the Action, the Examiner also suggested that claims 24-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the Applicant has amended claim 21 (from which claim 24 depended) to include all of the elements of claim 24. As a result, claims 22 and 23, which depend from claim 21, now also contain all of the elements of allowable claim 24. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-23 and 25-29 are now allowable.

As a result of these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are moot and all of the remaining claims are now in a form for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and allow all of the remaining pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant submits that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited prior art. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

The Applicant invites the Examiner, however, to contact the undersigned if an interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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